

RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1940.

S. C. GAWNE, M.D., B.S.Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H.,
D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.



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RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1940.

Chairman of the Council : James Eden, Esq., M.B.E., J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council : Robert Webster, Esq.

Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee :
Wm. Foster, Esq.

Vice-Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee :
F. Winstanley, Esq.

Members :

George Bërryman, Esq.

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Sam Lewis, Esq.

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Walter Smith, Esq.

Ben Stockley, Esq.

Ed. Wainwright, Esq.

Clerk to the Council : Geo. Walker.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health :

S. C. Gawne, M.D. (State Medicine), B.S.Lond., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

Reginald C. Haycock, A.R.S.I., A.F.A.S., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.B.E.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
RAINFORD.

June, 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rainford Urban District Council.

Sirs,

I have the honour to submit to you the 50th Annual Report on the health of Rainford, being the report for the year ended 31st December, 1940.

The report has been drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 2314 of the Ministry of Health, dated 26th March, 1941.

The Ministry appreciate the increasing pressure of work in Public Health Departments and the need for strict economy in the use of paper. It is requested that Annual Reports should be curtailed.

As a result of the Air Raid Precautions Scheme considerable extra work has fallen to the Health Department, and, though every effort has been made to maintain the efficiency of the Service, with the limited staff available it has not been possible to carry out normal routine work in connection with housing and the inspection of dairies.

The Council's Scheme for immunisation against diphtheria is very popular. A high proportion of Rainford children are now protected against diphtheria and the facilities provided by the Council are much appreciated by the parents.

My thanks are again due to my fellow-officials and members of the staff for their help and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. C. GAWNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	5,877
Estimated Population, mid-year 1939	3,559
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books	1,063
Rateable Value	£14,946
Product of a penny rate	£62 5 6

I.—PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

There has been no change in the boundaries of the district during the year. An account of the physical features and social conditions of the district will be found in earlier reports.

II.—VITAL STATISTICS.

For the duration of the war particulars of vital statistics will not be included in the Annual Report.

III.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There have been no changes in the General Health Services during the year and particulars of the various services will be found in my Report for 1939.

IV.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Water is obtained from the St. Helens Corporation by agreement and the supply is satisfactory.

The Council are considering various schemes for improving the water supply to the North end of the District, where pressure has been bad for some time owing to considerable increase in the consumption by large consumers in the Village Area. No decision has yet been arrived at.

All the houses in Rainford are supplied from the mains, with the exception of seven supplied by wells and one from a spring. Five of the latter houses can be supplied from the mains should the private supply prove to be unsatisfactory.

It has not been possible to undertake the examination of water from the wells during the year, owing to the limitation of staff and pressure of work connected with A.R.P.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

A full account of the sewerage systems in Rainford will be found in the Annual Report for 1937.

The sewage disposal works continue to work efficiently and the effluents are of a good quality.

Closet Accommodation.

It has not been possible to procure as many conversions of privy middens as in normal times, but during the year four conversions to water closets were effected.

The elimination of the remaining privy middens remains the main sanitary requirement in the district.

Public Cleansing.

No alteration in the system of public cleansing has taken place during the year. Full details were given in the reports for previous years.

Shops.

The Shops Act, 1934, is enforced by the County Council. The provisions of the Act, however, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences are administered by the Urban District Council. It has not been necessary to take any action during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

For several years there has been no evidence of the infestation of houses with bed bugs within the district.

When tenants are removed into new Council houses due measures are taken for the detection of bed bugs.

V.—SCHOOLS.

The school children in the Rainford Urban District are inspected by the School Medical Department of the Lancashire County Council. The fact that the Assistant County Medical Officer of Health responsible for this work is also Medical Officer of Health for the District is effective from the point of view of public health administration. Not only is a full knowledge of the people and the needs of the district of great help at the examination of the children, but prompt action can be taken in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease.

Close co-operation exists between the Medical Officer and the teachers and much use is made of the returns of sick children forwarded by the School Attendance Officer each week.

Exclusion of scholars is carried out in accordance with the Board of Education's Memorandum.

School Closure.

It was not found necessary to close any of the schools during the year.

Health Services for Schools.

A School Clinic has been provided by the County Council at the Council Offices. Children may attend here for inspection and treatment of minor ailments, eye and ear defects and dental caries.

The Clinic is open for these purposes as follows :—

Tuesday, 2 p.m.—4 p.m. :—Dental Surgeon attends.
(Mr. Linnell).

Friday, 10 a.m.—12 noon :—Minor Ailments.
Nurse Melia.
Medical Officer attends alternate Fridays.

School Feeding.

The milk in schools scheme of the Milk Marketing Board continues in operation. Milk is the most valuable single food-stuff known and hence its being chosen to supplement the diet of school children. The milk is supplied to the schools and consumed on the premises at a cost of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per one third pint bottle, a child consuming up to one pint daily. Certain children selected by the use of an income test receive the milk free.

Samples of milk delivered to each school are taken quarterly for pathological examination for tuberculosis at the request of the County Council. The samples taken in 1939 all proved satisfactory.

VI.—HOUSING.

The general standard of housing in the district is good, but there are many houses varying in age up to 200 years which suffer from dampness, poor ventilation and lack of suitable provision for the storage of food.

Since the outbreak of hostilities it has not been possible to carry out the normal routine inspection of houses in the District. The staff available in normal times was limited, and extra duties, such as A.R.P., have now prohibited such inspections.

VII.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

On the 31st December, 1940, there were registered under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :—

- 5 persons as cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors of milk ;
- 6 persons as cowkeepers and retail purveyors of milk ;
- 3 persons as purveyors of milk.

There are in the District approximately 80 cows kept for dairy purposes.

It is desirable that regular visits should be paid to dairies and cowsheds by the Sanitary Staff. Unfortunately, these cannot be carried out because of the many duties connected with war work which fall to the Sanitary Inspector, who is also Surveyor.

Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.—There were no slaughterhouses in operation in the District during the year.

VIII.—FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901 AND FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

No change has occurred in the number of factories and workshops within the district since last year.

It was not necessary to take any action on account of sanitary defects during 1940.

IX.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

No serious outbreak of disease was experienced during the year.

107 cases of infectious disease were notified to the Department under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act. 95 of these relate to whooping cough and measles.

Apart from notifications received under this Act, information of sickness in school is obtained from the returns forwarded by the School Attendance Officer to the Medical Officer of Health each week, and the head teachers of the schools inform the school nurse at her routine visits to school of those children who are absent from school and suspected of infectious or contagious disease. In this way valuable knowledge of the incidence of infectious disease is acquired, so that it is possible to take prompt measures to combat the spread of such sickness.

Scarlet Fever.

4 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year.

Diphtheria.

2 cases of diphtheria were notified during 1940.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1940.

Disease	total cases at all ages	under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 and ovr.	cases ad. to hosp.	total deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Measles	71	3	3	8	7	8	12	26	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	24	4	1	1	5	3	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	107	7	5	10	12	11	18	35	3	1	1	4	—	3	1

Immunisation Against Diphtheria.

A most encouraging response has been obtained to the Council's Scheme for the free immunisation of children in the Urban District against diphtheria, which was put into operation in November, 1938.

The Tables given below show the number of children who have been immunised during 1940. The campaign is being continued and every effort made to secure the treatment of the pre-school child.

Of great help is the continued co-operation of the head teachers of the four schools.

The injections are given by the Medical Officer of Health or Assistant County Medical Officer, assisted by the School Nurse, and records are kept by the Medical Officer's clerk.

The treatment of school children is carried out at the schools. Children of pre-school age are treated either at the schools or at the Child Welfare Centre and School Clinic.

Anterior Schick testing has not been undertaken, since it is apt to make children apprehensive.

Alum-precipitated toxoid is the standard immunising agent used. Two doses are given subcutaneously into the upper arm, an interval of 3-4 weeks intervening between the two. The first injection amounts to 0.1 c.c. and the second 0.5 c.c.

It is most unusual for any reactions to occur in children under 8 years of age. Over this age slight local reactions have occasionally been noticed after the first "detector" dose of 0.1 c.c., and in these cases immunisation treatment is completed with Toxoid-Antitoxin Floccules. It is exceptional for any reaction to occur after T.A.F.

Immunity is acquired after some 2 to 3 months after the last injection.

Immunising material is supplied free of cost to practitioners in the district upon request.

PARTICULARS OF THE WORK DONE IN CONNECTION
WITH IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA
1940.

All School Children.			Pre-School Children		
Age.	Number Immunised.		Age.	Number Immunised.	
4	—	1	.....	26
5	9	2	.....	16
6	8	3	.....	7
7	7	4	.....	14
8	8	—	—	—
9	5	Total	.....	63
10	3	—	—	—
11	3			
12	2			
13	3			
14	—			
Total	48			

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives the notifications received during the year under the Public Health (TB) Regulations, 1930.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1940.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	I	—	—	—	—	I	—	—
35—	—	I	—	—	I	I	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	I	—	—	I	2	—	—

There were no deaths amongst non-notified cases of Tuberculosis during the year.

The County Council are responsible for the provision of dispensaries, sanatoria and home visiting for Tuberculosis. The Tuberculosis Dispensary for residents in the Rainford District is in Hardshaw Street, St. Helens. Patients may be referred there with a note from their own doctor or by the School Medical Officer and Medical Officer in charge of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Notification of Tuberculosis is very complete and satisfactory.

